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BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT
1963

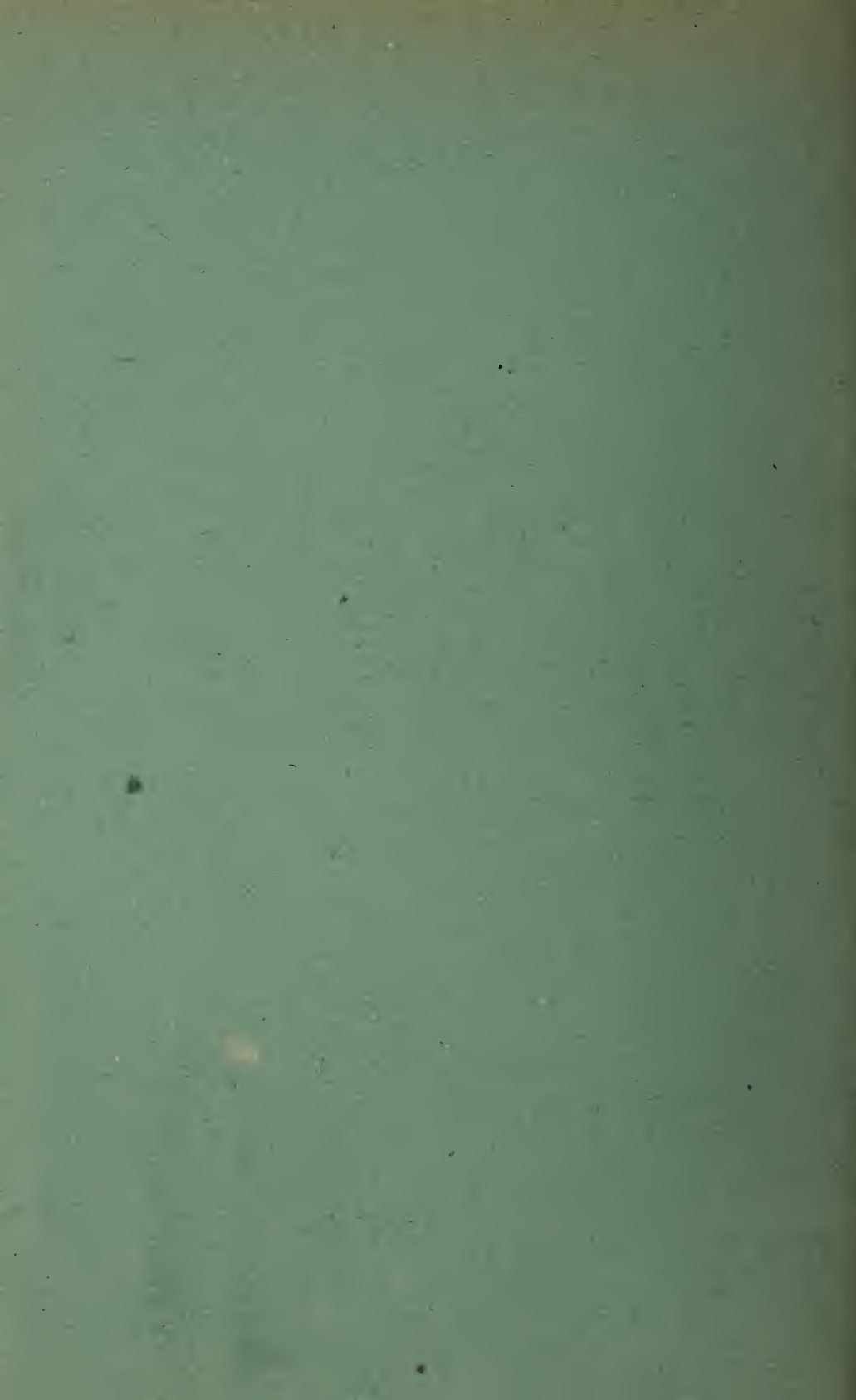


ELLIS TAYLOR

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. J. WOLSTENHOLME

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

*With
the Compliments of the
Medical Officer
of Health*

BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT
1963

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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

*THE MAYOR (Councillor PHILLIP NORFIELD, J.P.), *ex officio*.

**Chairman*: Councillor H. BRINDLE, J.P.

**Vice-Chairman*: Alderman J. A. DEAN.

Members:

Alderman J. BROOKS, C.C.

*Alderman J. W. GEERE, J.P., C.C.

Alderman W. WELSBY.

*Councillor C. B. CALLAGHAN.

Councillor S. DAWSON.

Councillor J. HARDY (Miss).

Councillor L. HASLAM.

*Councillor J. G. SEDDON.

Councillor S. STOUT.

*Councillor J. WILD.

* *Members of Sub-Committee.*

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

(Retired 2/11/63).

ELLIS TAYLOR, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. (Appointed 4/11/63).

Chief Public Health Inspector:

W. J. WOLSTENHOLME, R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD,

R.S.I. FOOD INSPECTION.

Public Health Inspectors:

P. BIRCH, R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD, R.S.H. FOOD INSPECTION.

C. L. GARSIDE, CERT. P.H.I.E.B.

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

J. TUNSTALL (Appointed 11/2/63).

Clerks:

Mrs. M. M. TAYLOR.

Miss C. L. BAXENDALE.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area	1,504 statute acres
Population	27,230 Estimated mid-1963
	27,474 Census 1961
Number of Inhabited houses, Census 1931	7,104
Number of Inhabited houses, Census 1961	9,119
Number of Inhabited houses, Estimated 1963	9,339
Rateable Value (1st April, 1963)	£735,217
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£2,900

TO THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

MR. MAYOR, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

For ten months of the year your previous Medical Officer of Health, Dr. R. S. Davidson, was responsible for the administration of the Department, but it falls to my lot to write this Annual Report. Although Farnworth is no strange town to me, I regret that I cannot yet speak with the local knowledge accrued by Dr. Davidson. Coming to Farnworth in 1943, Dr. Davidson has left his imprint on many facets of public health and I am sure that the town will wish him well during his well earned retirement.

I acknowledge the help and encouragement given by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and the loyal co-operation of the staff of the Health Department.

ELLIS TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1963

BIRTHS:	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	260	234	494
Illegitimate	18	13	31
TOTAL	278	247	525

STILL BIRTHS	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	—	1	1
TOTAL	2	3	5

	<i>Farnworth</i>	<i>England & Wales</i>
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population	21.2	18.2
STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total births	9.4	17.3

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR:	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	7	10	17
Illegitimate	—	—	—
TOTAL	7	10	17

	<i>Farnworth</i>	<i>England & Wales</i>
INFANT MORTALITY RATE: (all infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births)	32.4	20.9

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE: (Per 1,000 total births)	35.8	29.3
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MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE: (Per 1,000 total births)	Nil	0.28
--	-----	------

DEATH RATE: (Per 1,000 population)	12.7	12.2
---	------	------

Although the population of the Borough showed a reduction of 60, there was a considerable natural increase as evidenced by the excess of births over deaths—145. Hence there must have been a migration of a number of families from within the Borough.

The Death Rate compared favourably with the national rate and showed a return to normal following the severe winter of 1962.

More optimistically, it is noted that the Birth Rate soared to 21.2, which matched the heights reached soon after the last war in 1947, and exceeded the rate for England and Wales—18.2.

The Infant Mortality Rate, which is considered to be a sensitive index of the health circumstances in a community, remained too high for complacency, although it remained within comparable limits with previous years. The reasons for a continuing high rate are obscure but may be associated with poor housing conditions or inadequate antenatal care. There can be no excuse for the latter as full facilities are available, and a serious onslaught is already under way on the former.

The main causes of death for the last ten years are shown in the following table:—

<i>Cause of Death</i>	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Bronchitis ...	29	31	18	25	34	26	19	35	39	28
Pneumonia ...	6	13	13	10	22	33	12	19	34	27
Heart Disease	93 (43)	80 (41)	91 (48)	121 (64)	134 (55)	98 (53)	109 (59)	127 (76)	127 (85)	106 (59)
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	45	48	52	46	57	61	65	72	82	58
Cancer	53 (8)	48 (12)	51 (9)	56 (15)	66 (11)	63 (18)	57 (14)	80 (17)	52 (9)	58 (10)

The figures in brackets denote the deaths due to coronary disease and those due to lung cancer.

The causes of death in all ages in 1963 are shown in Table 1.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Apart from the usual biennial epidemic of measles involving mainly the under-fives, the Borough continued to be unaffected by any serious outbreak.

Details of cases of infectious disease notified during the year are shown in Table 2.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948—1951

During the year a formal application under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948 was made for the removal to hospital of a man aged 75 who was suffering from grave chronic disease, was aged and infirm, was living in insanitary conditions and was unable to devote to himself, and was not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention. An Order was made for a period of three weeks and the man was removed to hospital where he died nine days after admission.

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND HEALTH

The town is well served by many vital voluntary bodies concerned with improving and maintaining the health and happiness of the community. They have all extended and consolidated their services and deserve the gratitude and appreciation of the Corporation on behalf of the townsfolk. May they continue to flourish and enable those gaps in the statutory services to be most adequately bridged.

TABLE 1.
CAUSES OF DEATH IN ALL AGES IN 1963

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in Years									
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over	
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	7	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	8	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	5	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	M	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	3	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	6	2	4
	F	16	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	4	7	3
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	2	9	17
	F	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	10	13
Coronary Disease, Angina	M	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	10	19	4
	F	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	4	9	6
Hypertension with Heart Disease	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ALL AGES IN 1963 (continued)

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in Years						65-	75 and over
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	
Other Heart Disease ...	M	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	3
	F	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7
Other Circulatory Disease ...	M	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	21
	F	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Pneumonia ...	M	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
	F	22	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Bronchitis ...	M	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	18
	F	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate... ..	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	M	18	5	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
	F	20	9	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	7
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Other Accidents ...	M	7	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	3
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Suicide ...	M	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Total All Causes ...	M	195	6	1	3	3	1	1	8	13	34	59
	F	185	9	1	-	2	-	-	3	7	14	97

TABLE 2.

**CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1963**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total cases at all ages	AGE PERIODS—YEARS								
		0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25 & over
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—
Whooping Cough.....	9	1	1	2	2	1	2	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (excluding rubella)	402	28	57	58	58	65	133	3	—	—
Diphtheria	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	8	2	3	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Meningococcal infection	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		0—	5—	15—	45—	65 & over				
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	14	3	—	1	5	5				
Smallpox	Nil	—	—	—	—	—				
Acute encephalitis	Nil	—	—	—	—	—				
Enteric or typhoid fever	Nil	—	—	—	—	—				
Paratyphoid fever	Nil	—	—	—	—	—				
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	1	—				
Food poisoning	4	—	—	2	2	—				
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	11	1	1	4	5	—				
Meninges and C.N.S.	Nil	—	—	—	—	—				
Other	2	—	—	2	—	—				
Puerperal pyrexia.....	Nil	—	—	—	—	—				

HOUSING

In 1963, as in previous years, much of the Department's work was concerned with the improvement of housing conditions. This is to be expected in a town in which a third of the population lives in houses between 70 and 120 years old.

The general picture of housing progress during the year is as follows:—

New houses built	59
Houses demolished or closed	} under Housing ... 102
Houses improved	
Houses repaired	
	Acts or Public ... 47
	Health Acts ... 188

Demolition of unfit houses in the Crompton Street Area continued and by the end of the year clearance of the Area was virtually complete. Almost all the families from the 136 houses in the Area had then been re-housed in Council dwellings and plans were well advanced for re-building on the cleared site.

The approaching completion of clearance work in the Crompton Street Area enabled a start to be made in 1963 on the necessary housing inspections in the next big clearance scheme—the Glynne Street/Gower Street Clearance Area. Amongst the 250 houses in this area are some of the worst in the town. During the year the first moves were made to deal with this area as a comprehensive re-development area—a project which will not be without problems, but one which will be another positive step forward in the big task of renewing the worn-out parts of the town. Because of the poor structural condition of some of the houses in the area it is likely that they will have to be cleared some time before the final details of the proposed re-development can be worked out.

During the year 155 houses were officially represented to the Council as being unfit for habitation and recommended for clearance. These included 143 houses in the Glynne Street/Gower Street Area and 12 houses in the Thomas Street Clearance Area.

The improvement of houses by the provision of standard amenities with the help of Improvement Grants continued during the year. The number of houses improved in this way each year is disappointingly small, being only a fraction of the many older but structurally sound houses which lack amenities such as fixed baths and hot water systems and which would qualify for grant.

As usual, many visits were made during the year by the Public Health Inspectors to examine houses whose owners had neglected to do essential repairs. These visits are followed up by the service of informal notices on the property-owners concerned. In 1963 this procedure resulted in repairs being done at 187 houses in the Borough. In only one case was it found necessary to resort to formal action.

Housing statistics for the year 1963 are given in Tables 3 and 4.

TABLE 3.

1. Number of new dwellings erected during the year:—			
		<i>Houses</i>	<i>Flats</i>
(i)	By the local authority	39	12
(ii)	By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(iii)	By other bodies or persons	8	Nil
<hr/>			
2. Total number of Council-owned dwellings existing at the end of the year			
			3382
<hr/>			
3. Inspections of dwellings during the year:—			
(i)	(a)	Total number of dwellings inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	750
	(b)	No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	2103
	(c)	No. of dwellings in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	176
(ii)	Total number of dwellings existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which—		
	(a)	Demolition Orders have been made (at any time)	97
	(b)	Demolition or Closing Orders have not yet been made	293

4. HOUSES DEMOLISHED: — In Clearance Areas:	<i>Displaced during year</i> <i>Houses Demolished Persons Families</i>		
(i) Houses unfit for human habitation	97	246	94
(ii) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil	Nil	Nil
(iii) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2), Housing Act, 1957	2	Nil	Nil
Not in Clearance Areas:			
(iv) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1), Housing Act, 1957	3	2	2
(v) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
(vi) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	Nil	Nil	Nil
(vii) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	Nil	Nil	Nil
5. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED: —	<i>Displaced during year</i> <i>Houses Demolished Persons Families</i>		
(i) Under Sections 16(4). and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957 ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Under Sections 18(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
(iii) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil

6. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED:—	By Owner	By Local Authority
(i) After informal action by local authority	187	_____
(ii) After formal notice under—		
(a) Public Health Acts	Nil	1
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil
(iii) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	_____
7. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (HOUSING ACT, 1957):—	Number of Houses (1)	No. of separate dwellings contained in col. (1) (2)
Position at end of year:		
(i) Retained for temporary accommodation—		
(a) Under Section 47	Nil	Nil
(b) Under Section 17(2)	Nil	Nil
(c) Under Section 46	Nil	Nil
(ii) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53	Nil	_____
8. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT:—	Number of Houses (1)	No. of occupants of houses in column (1) (2)
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year	27	79

9. HOUSING ACT, 1949, AND HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958—IM- PROVEMENT GRANTS, ETC.:—	No of dwelling houses or other buildings affected in schemes of—	
	Private bodies or individuals	Local Authority
Action during year:		
(i) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	8	_____
(ii) Approved by local authority	8	_____
(iii) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil
(iv) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	Nil
(v) Work completed	8	Nil
(vi) Additional separate dwellings in- cluded in (v) above	Nil	Nil

10. HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959— STANDARD GRANTS:	No. of dwellings or other buildings affected	
Action during year:		
(i) Applications submitted to local authority	41	
(ii) Applications approved by local authority	39	
(iii) Work completed	39	

TABLE 4.

BUILDING	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
By Local Authority															
Houses	55	122	38	75	64	156	102	39	98	34	—	24	106	22	39
Pre-Fabs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Flats	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	45	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
By Private Builders															
Houses	—	—	—	5	9	1	2	2	10	4	1	6	58	57	8
Houses Demolished	—	—	—	—	9	—	13	—	4	71	3	75	32	55	102
Closing Orders	2	—	—	—	1	—	6	5	—	—	—	1	1	—	—

CARAVANS

Again it has to be reported that unauthorised parking of caravans on plots of vacant land in the Borough gave rise to complaints during the year.

For several months in the early part of the year a group of showmen with fifteen caravans and numerous other vehicles settled on the cleared site which was formerly the Osborne Street/Hill Street Clearance Area. There were seven similar instances, for shorter periods, on other sites during the year.

Apart from these incidents, showmen's caravans have for many years been accommodated in Farnworth, mostly during the winter months but in some cases throughout the year. Some of the sites used for this purpose have, in fact, the benefit of Planning permission. These sites are, without exception, close to mains water and public sewers; if they are to continue, the caravanners should be made to provide on the sites an adequate number of proper water-closets instead of the insanitary pail closets which are now used.

It is hoped that the results of consultations on caravan sites which have been taking place for some time at County Council level will not be too long delayed and will offer a solution to the present unsatisfactory position in this area.

CLEAN AIR

For those who have been looking forward to the establishment of smoke control areas in the town, 1963 was a disappointing year. A survey of 836 houses and other premises in the Plodder Lane (South) proposed Smoke Control Area was completed in May, and in the following month the Council's Health Committee agreed to make the necessary Smoke Control Order which, subject to confirmation, would have resulted in about one seventh of the town's total area becoming smokeless. Unfortunately, the Committee's resolution coincided with a Government statement advising local authorities not to proceed with proposals for Smoke Control Orders which were based on the use of smokeless fuel on open fires, since less of this type of fuel was being manufactured and future supplies would not meet any additional demands. The Council, therefore, had no alternative but to postpone the making of the Order, and the months of work put into the survey turned out to be largely wasted, since a fresh survey will be needed before another Order can be submitted.

On the industrial front the clean air picture is brighter. As reported last year most of the 22 larger industrial chimneys in operation are serving furnaces which have been fitted with modern firing equipment permitting near-smokeless operation. One furnace installation which has not been so modernised was guilty of producing excessive amounts of smoke during the year, but arrangements are in hand for the necessary furnace alterations to be done.

In the sphere of clean air publicity, a visit to the town by a mobile exhibition, produced by a firm of domestic heating appliance manufacturers, was arranged during the year.

The daily measurements of air pollution which have been made throughout the year continue to show a high level of pollution over the town. Smoke pollution in 1963 was rather less over the year than in previous years, but sulphur pollution was about average. The year's readings showed a wider variation than usual between summer and winter measurements—one instrument recorded more than ten times as much smoke in January as in June.

Thanks are due to the staff and students of Farnworth Grammar School for their assistance in air pollution measurement work.

Detailed figures showing the average daily amounts of smoke and sulphur in the atmosphere, as recorded by instruments at Avondale Road and Farnworth Grammar School, are given for each month of the last four years in Table 5.

TABLE 5.
ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION BY SMOKE AND SULPHUR
MEASURED BY VOLUMETRIC INSTRUMENTS AT AVON-
DALE ROAD AND FARNWORTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

PERIOD		Average daily amounts of pollution in microgrammes per cubic metre of air			
		Smoke		Sulphur	
		Grammar School	Avondale Road	Grammar School	Avondale Road
Month January	1960	566	520	458	332
Month February	1960	453	410	375	323
Month March	1960	270	270	317	237
Month April	1960	263	238	254	197
Month May	1960	190	220	200	223
Month June	1960	100	140	160	117
Month July	1960	118	102	111	90
Month August	1960	170	166	123	130
Month September	1960	237	261	180	166
Month October	1960	389	420	310	304
Month November	1960	450	392	348	318
Month December	1960	670	616	474	480
Year Jan—Dec.	1960	323	306	276	242
Month January	1961	480	504	366	389
Month February	1961	340	341	287	232
Month March	1961	350	320	294	243
Month April	1961	265	258	225	234
Month May	1961	186	188	174	194
Month June	1961	108	124	128	134
Month July	1961	99	107	92	108
Month August	1961	114	117	125	132
Month September	1961	188	179	124	180
Month October	1961	253	252	200	230
Month November	1961	N.A.	484	N.A.	525
Month December	1961	848	820	1113	1063
Year Jan—Dec.	1961	295	308	277	309
Month January	1962	472	324	541	563
Month February	1962	512	500	293	443
Month March	1962	444	620	471	626
Month April	1962	296	300	284	260
Month May	1962	108	188	165	240
Month June	1962	136	140	234	211
Month July	1962	132	200	158	253
Month August	1962	188	116	190	190
Month September	1962	272	220	267	264
Month October	1962	408	384	376	394
Month November	1962	604	528	647	506
Month December	1962	636	560	758	684
Year Jan—Dec.	1962	351	340	365	386
Month January	1963	592	716	743	839
Month February	1963	448	480	475	456
Month March	1963	384	358	393	326
Month April	1963	288	340	296	307
Month May	1963	124	192	216	189
Month June	1963	96	64	110	96
Month July	1963	136	72	100	82
Month August	1963	112	92	133	83
Month September	1963	204	252	241	185
Month October	1963	246	180	241	155
Month November	1963	328	324	313	256
Month December	1963	346	460	369	449
Year Jan—Dec.	1963	275	294	302	285

N.A. No figures available.

FOOD

In last year's Report mention was made of the need for constant care in the manufacture, storage and handling of food. Some of the consequences of failure to maintain the highest standards of vigilance in food establishments can be seen in the following incidents which occurred during 1963:

- (a) A sausage roll sold at a Farnworth shop was found to be mouldy. The mould showed that the roll was at least four or five days old.
- (b) A meat and potato pie made and sold by a Farnworth baker contained a small beetle.
- (c) An iced bun from a Farnworth shop was found to contain a piece of string.
- (d) A needle and thread were found in a mince pie baked and sold in Farnworth.
- (e) A flour-cake baked in Farnworth contained particles of foreign matter.
- (f) A loaf of bread supplied by a roundsman in Farnworth contained a fly.

In all these cases full investigations were made, and appropriate action was taken, either by the Health Department or by the County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority. In two cases legal proceedings resulted in fines of £3 and £10 being imposed. Food traders may be faced with staffing and other difficulties, but these difficulties must be met and overcome if incidents like those shown above are to be avoided and if food is to reach the consumer in a sound and wholesome condition.

Again it has to be reported that the Department's staffing position and the demands of other work permitted only sketchy attention to the vital job of food premises inspection. Regular visiting of food establishments by Public Health Inspectors is an essential factor in any campaign for better standards of food hygiene.

Among the unsatisfactory features noted in food premises was the too-common practice of sticking price labels into foodstuffs. To the seeker after clean and safe food this habit can appear almost criminal, for instance when one sees a plump oven-ready chicken—probably prepared in hygienic surroundings in a modern food factory, carefully enveloped in air-tight polythene to exclude contamination, and attractively presented—pierced to a depth of two or three inches by the metal prong of a price label which since last being used may have been wiped but will almost certainly not have been sterilised.

The Market foodstalls were visited as often as possible during the year. It has been reported before that conditions are not always satisfactory, particularly on the open-type casual stalls selling unwrapped food, mainly because of the lack of adequate washing and other facilities. In this connection it is gratifying to note that new legislation is expected which will strengthen the law in this respect, and which will aim at improving the general standard of hygiene on food stalls.

Notification was received during the year from the Ministry of Health that investigations into outbreaks of food poisoning in various parts of the country had led to suspicions that the cause might be tinned Chinese egg, which is sometimes used in artificial cream and pastries. Following this information, all local bakers were visited and advised not to use Chinese egg.

During the year the following foodstuffs were surrendered to the Public Health Inspectors and destroyed after being examined and found to be unfit for human consumption:—

Tinned foods	2297 lbs.
Frozen foods	790 lbs.
Other foods	36 lbs.

With the co-operation of a nearby authority, which has the necessary equipment, the disposal of unsound food surrendered in this way is accomplished by composting—a method which effectively destroys the food and which provides a solution to what would otherwise be a difficult disposal problem. No unsound food had to be seized during the year.

Although there were no food poisoning outbreaks during the year, four isolated cases were reported. Each of these cases was investigated, but no causative organisms were identified and no particular foods were suspected.

The number of food premises in the Borough, under the various categories, is shown in Table 6.

Under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, the Lancashire County Council acts as the Food and Drugs Authority for the Farnworth district. Officers of the County Health Department are responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Food and Drugs Acts relating to adulteration of food, and these officers, in collaboration with the local Health Department, take samples of food and drugs throughout the district and arrange for their analysis. Particulars of samples taken in 1963, together with the results of analysis, are given in Table 7.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1955 requires premises used for the preparation or manufacture of certain preserved foods to be registered with the local authority. There were 29 of these premises registered at the end of the year.

TABLE 6.

**NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES IN DISTRICT AT THE END
OF 1963**

TYPE OF BUSINESS	No.
General grocers and provision dealers	144
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	31
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.)	5
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	38
Bakers and/or confectioners	45
Fried fish shops	26
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	17
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering estab- lishments	95

TABLE 7.

**ADULTERATION OF FOOD
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955**

Particulars of samples taken during the year 1963:—

Milk	90
Other articles	44

The 44 other articles comprised:—

5 Bread	1 Laxative
1 Castor oil B.P.	1 Aspirins
4 Sweets	1 Soup, canned
1 Colouring material	1 Black treacle
1 Meat and potato pie	4 Flour confectionery
5 Ice-Cream	1 Potted fish
1 Liquid paraffin emulsion	1 Honey
2 Fruit curd	2 Margarine
2 Self raising flour	1 Desiccated coconut
3 Sugar	1 Epsom salts
1 Solution of Hydrogen Peroxide B.P.	1 Canned vegetables
1 Mince pie	1 Compound syrup of figs
	1 Vitamin tablets

Details are given below of those samples upon which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:

<i>Type of Sample</i>	<i>Results of Analysis</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
1 Bread	Contained .38 gramme course pink-coloured paper (bearing black printed numbers) derived from a flour sack label.	Bakers cautioned.
Portion of mince pie	Contained a steel needle measuring $1\frac{1}{8}$ in. long and $\frac{1}{32}$ in. thick threaded with a piece of cotton thread $2\frac{3}{4}$ in. long, weighing in all 1.94 gramme.	Legal proceedings instituted. Bakers fined £10 and ordered to pay £16 0s. 5d. costs.
1 Bread	Contained .23 gramme of dough discoloured with 500 parts per million copper, corresponding to 8.1 parts per million copper on whole sample; whereas recommended maximum limit is 20 parts per million copper.	Complainant informed and bakery interviewed.
1 Informal milk	Contained .01 international units penicillin per ml.	Dairy and Milk Marketing Board informed.
1 Flour Confectionery	Slight taint of soap on part of the outside surfaces only.	Complainant, vendor and bakery informed.
1 Bread	Contained one dead unidentified fly measuring 8 mls. long and weighing 11 mgms.	Bakery cautioned.
Portion of meat and potato pie	Contained a small beetle of the nature of <i>ptinus tectus</i> weighing 2 mgms. and measuring 3 mm. x $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm.	Baker prosecuted and fined £3 and ordered to pay £6-6-0d. costs.

HAWKERS

There were four names on the register of Hawkers at the end of 1963, no new registrations being made during the year.

MILK

The issue of licences to produce or sell milk is a County Council responsibility, but the Borough Council retains the duty to keep a register of all milk distributors in the district. At the end of the year there were 165 distributors on the register.

Milk samples for bacteriological and chemical examination are taken from farms and dairies by officers of the County Council and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Notification was received during the year that an infection contracted by a resident of the Borough had been traced to milk from a herd of cows on a farm in a neighbouring district. The cows were examined by officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and two which were found to be infected with the causative organism were slaughtered.

ICE-CREAM

The ice-cream trade has for some time relied to a great extent on pre-wrapped, quality-controlled supplies from a few large nationally-operating manufacturers whose products are of a high standard. This has been a source of gratification to those public health officers who remember the days when almost every sweet-shop-keeper worthy of the name made his own ice-cream, each to his own recipe, each with his own standard of cleanliness, often with makeshift equipment. Fortunately those days are gone, but we must be on guard against any decline in the present high standard of ice-cream hygiene as a result of the recent advent of "soft" ice-cream, a product which is partly manufactured on the vehicle from which it is sold and is therefore more open to pre-sale contamination than factory-made wrapped ice-cream.

Premises used for the manufacture, storage or sale of ice-cream have to be registered with the local authority under the Food and Drugs Act of 1955. At the end of 1963 the numbers registered were as follows:—

Manufacturers	2
Dealers	123

LICENSED PREMISES

Following the surveys of public houses and licensed clubs carried out by the Department in 1961 and 1962, these premises were again inspected during the year under review. As a result of the original surveys and the subsequent requests for improvements to the brewery companies concerned, it was found on re-inspection that the following improvements had been made:—

Structural repairs to buildings	13	premises
Redecoration of public rooms and food rooms	11	,,
Improvement of ventilation to public rooms	2	,,
Provision of additional public sanitary accommodation	1	,,
Improvement of existing public sanitary accommodation	9	,,
Provision of additional public hand-washing facilities	4	,,
Provision of additional washing facilities in bars	4	,,
Improvement of existing washing facilities in bars	1	,,
Improvement of hot water supplies	2	,,

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS AND MEAT INSPECTION

Slaughtering of cattle and sheep took place regularly throughout the year at the one licensed slaughterhouse in the Borough. The slaughterhouse premises are not ideally situated, being close to surrounding houses in a built-up area.

Fewer animals were slaughtered than in 1962—a total of 1,232 compared with 1,334.

Eight persons had their licences to slaughter animals renewed during the year.

1963 marked an important change in meat inspection practice and procedure. Regulations which came into force on the 1st of October required all carcasses to be inspected in a specified manner and within certain time limits, and to be marked accordingly after being passed as fit for consumption. The Regulations also allowed a charge to be made for inspection. The Regulations were brought into full operation on the appointed day, and no serious difficulties were encountered in implementing them. Because of the requirements of the Regulations, meat inspection took up more of the Public Health Inspectors' time, but co-operation between the slaughter-house occupier and the Inspectors resulted in only small amounts of meat inspection work having to be done outside normal working hours.

The animals slaughtered were of good quality and little evidence of disease was found. No carcasses were condemned and no tuberculosis was discovered.

Details of animals slaughtered and the incidence of disease are given in Table 8.

TABLE 8.
SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS
Carcases inspected and incidence of disease

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	348	14	Nil	870	Nil
Number inspected	348	14	Nil	870	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis :-					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	13	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis ...	3.7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis only:—					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cysticercosis:—					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

WATER SUPPLY

Every house in the town has a piped supply of mains water which is supplied by Bolton Corporation. The water is derived from upland gathering grounds and is filtered and treated before going into supply. It is soft in nature and satisfactory in quality and quantity.

The supply was from Ferns Pressure Filters, Sweetloves Rapid Gravity Filters and the Lake District Undertaking. Four samples of both raw and filtered water from the two filter stations were subjected to full chemical analysis, and 106 samples of raw and 108 samples of filtered water to bacteriological examination by the Bolton Borough Analyst. In addition, 53 samples of water from the supply of the Lake District Undertaking received bacteriological examination and four samples received full chemical analysis. The results showed that the filtered and treated water was of excellent quality, B.Coli being absent in 99.07% of the potable water samples tested. Where 100% bacteriological purity was not obtained a further sample taken proved satisfactory.

From tests made the water was shown to have no significant plumbo-solvent action.

No action was required to be taken in respect of any form of contamination.

No extensions to the water mains were carried out during the year within the Borough.

The supply area was increased on the 1st April, 1963 under the Bolton Water Order, 1962, and the Bolton Water (Amendment) Order, 1963, and now includes the areas served by the former Irwell Valley Water Board and the Borough of Bacup Water Undertaking.

PUBLIC BATHS

A record number of people were admitted to the Baths during the year. Admissions to the plunge numbered 96,471 and 10,473 slipper baths were taken, a total of 106,944.

The 75 ft. x 30 ft. swimming pool was further improved by the construction of a new scum channel, and additional space-heating arrangements were provided.

Water for the pool is supplied from the town's mains and is subject to a process of continuous filtration and chlorination. Regular tests are made to ensure a satisfactory residual chlorine content and pH value, and samples of water from the pool are also taken for bacteriological examination.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Almost every house in the town has its own water closet. The number of waste water closets was further reduced during the year from 14 to 6, as predicted in the Report for 1962.

At the end of the year the following types of sanitary accommodation were in use:—

Pail closets	3
Waste water closets	6
Fresh water closets	10,520

The pail closets are at farms, where connection to the sewer is for one reason or another impracticable. There are a number of pail closets not included in the above figure which are used in connection with the various caravan sites in the town.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Borough's Cleansing services are under the control of the Borough Surveyor. About 10,560 dustbins are emptied weekly by three teams of collectors, the contents being disposed of by controlled tipping.

SEWERAGE

Virtually all buildings in the town are connected to the sewerage system. Some sewers are old and defective, others are overloaded, and some parts of the system have been affected by subsidence. An extensive programme is under consideration for the reconstruction of all main sewers in the Borough.

DRAINAGE

Apart from sewerage and drainage works to new Council houses, which are dealt with by the Borough Surveyor's Department, all new drainage works and alterations to existing drains were inspected by the Health Department during the year. Whenever possible drains were tested before being covered.

The number of nuisances traced to defective and badly constructed drains emphasises the need to maintain a high standard of drainage inspection.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The poor standard of public conveniences in the town continues to give concern.

In this matter we are up against the apparently insoluble problem of wilful damage, on which one can make no more constructive comment than that it is difficult to understand the minds of those people who cannot resist a temptation to destroy wantonly anything destructible and publicly-owned, be it flowers in the park or windows in the public conveniences.

A town of Farnworth's size ought to be able to provide at least one central attended public convenience with wash-basins, hot water, towels and toilet-paper. The present standard of public conveniences may be as good as the vandals deserve, but the vast majority of the town's citizens and visitors are entitled to something better.

DISINFESTATION

From time to time during the year infestations of insects were found in domestic and industrial buildings. They were dealt with efficiently by the use of chemical insecticides.

RODENT CONTROL

Many visits are made each year by the Department's Rodent Operator to deal with infestations of rats and mice. A proportion of these visits are followed up by the Public Health Inspectors in cases where drainage or other defects need to be put right. The year was a busy one in the rodent control section, more inspections being recorded than in 1962.

The town's sewers provide the greatest source of rats, and it is from this source that most surface infestations occur. It follows that a successful rodent control system should include poison baiting of the sewers so as to destroy rats at the source before they can emerge and set up secondary infestations. Some poison-baiting of the sewers was done during the year, in fact 484 manholes were treated. This however, represents only a small part of the sewer system of the town, and if the rat population is to be drastically reduced an all-out attack on the sewers is needed. There are difficulties in carrying out an extensive sewer treatment, but these will have to be surmounted if a high standard of rodent control is to be achieved.

It is also important, as has been mentioned before, that the very many untrapped gullies in the streets of the town should be replaced or modified to prevent rats leaving the sewers and causing fresh surface infestations.

Details of inspections and treatments carried out during the year by the Rodent Operator are given in Table 9.

TABLE 9.
RODENT CONTROL
Action during the year 1963

	TYPE OF PROPERTY			
	Dwelling houses	Agri-cultural	All Others	TOTAL
Number of properties in the district	8972	5	1674	10,651
Number of properties inspected	560	Nil	122	682
Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections)	1086	Nil	272	1358
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:-				
Rats :	331	Nil	72	403
Mice :	26	Nil	4	30
Number of infested properties treated	357	Nil	76	433
Total treatments carried out (including re-treatments)	480	Nil	151	631

FACTORIES

The Register of Factories, as required to be kept by the Factories Acts, contains the addresses of 124 factories. Of these 120 are provided with mechanical power. Although 50 visits were made during the year, more frequent inspection is needed if the enforcement of the Factory Act provisions is to be maintained.

More factory premises have been modernised, and improvements made to sanitary accommodation, ventilation and washing facilities. In this work, co-operation with H.M. Factory Inspectors and the Fire Service has continued.

The prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Acts, as requested by the Ministry of Labour are to be found in Table 10.

TABLE 10.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors) during 1963.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect- ions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occu- piers prose- cuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities... ..	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	120	49	1	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	5	8	Nil	Nil
Total ...	129	57	1	Nil

2—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	Nil	1	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	1	1	Nil	1	Nil

3. Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Making of wearing apparel	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Paper work (cracker making)	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

PET SHOPS

Before these premises are registered, as they must be under the provisions of the Pet Animals Act, 1951, they are inspected and the co-operation of the R.S.P.C.A. is sought where appropriate. All the registered Pet Shops were visited at the beginning of the winter and the occupiers were reminded of the need to provide adequate warmth for animals and birds, particularly in lock-up premises. There are five registered Pet Shops in the Borough.

SHOPS AND OFFICES

During the year four visits were made to shops for the purpose of enforcement of the provisions of the Shops Acts relating to temperature and ventilation.

In the year under review, important new legislation—the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963—made its appearance. This far-reaching Act makes provision for the safety, health and welfare of the many people employed in the premises concerned, and although the Act will not come into force until August, 1964 a considerable amount of preparatory work will be needed before that date in compiling registers of the various classes of premises covered by the Act. If the requirements of the Act are to be properly enforced the question of additional staff for this purpose will have to be considered.

MORTUARY

Because of its poor condition the public mortuary in Gas Street was not used during the year, arrangements being made where necessary with the Bolton and District Hospital Management Committee for the use of facilities at Bolton District General Hospital.

STAFF

The position of Pupil Public Health Inspector was vacant for a short time at the beginning of the year. In all other respects the Department had a full complement of staff throughout the year.

For a period of several weeks during the year when Little Lever Urban District Council were without a Public Health Inspector urgent matters arising in that authority's area were dealt with by Farnworth Health Department staff.

A total of 5,754 visits were made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year. Details of these visits are shown in Table 11.

TABLE 11.

VISITS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS DURING
1963

PUBLIC HEALTH							
Repair of houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	903
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	128
Accumulations and tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	127
Waste water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Drainage visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	411
Drain tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	105
Public sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Keeping of animals and birds	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	207
HOUSING							
Individual unfit houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	107
Houses in Clearance Areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	305
Cleared sites or demolition in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Houses in multiple occupation	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Rent Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Housing survey	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Council houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
FOOD AND DRUGS							
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	283
Meat shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	149
Fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	85
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Restaurants, cafes and canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Market stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	119
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Food Hygiene Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	182
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Inspection of unsound food	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
Other food visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	92
FACTORIES							
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
CLEAN AIR ACT							
Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Industrial air pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	172
Domestic air pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Smoke Control Areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	139
Measurement of air pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	324
MISCELLANEOUS							
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Public Baths	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Rodent control	...	...	...	...	...	...	481
Pet shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Rag Flock Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	324

